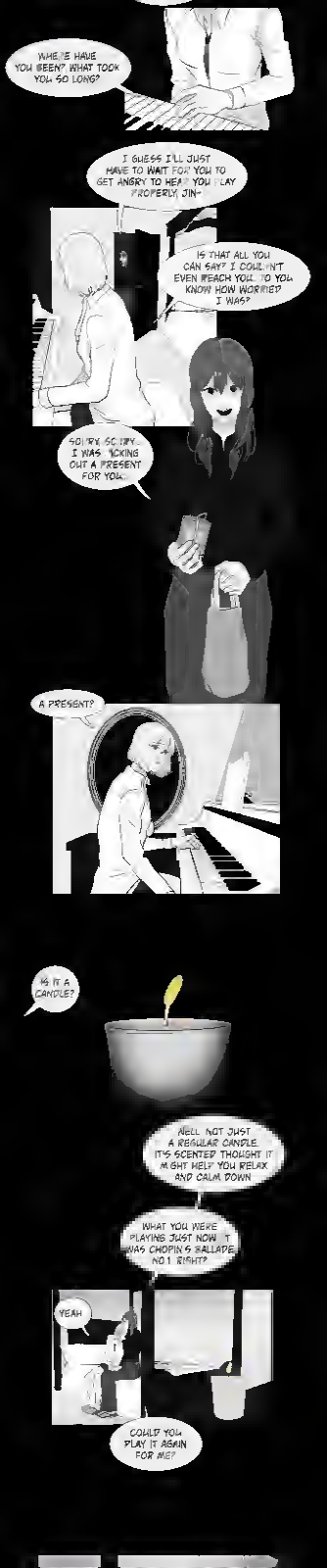
MAN ,AND I THOUGHT I'D GET TO HEAR YOU PLAY PROPERLY FOR A CHANGE


WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR YOU TO GET ANGRY TO HEAR YOU PLAY PROPERLY, JIN-
IS THAT ALL YOU CAN SAY? I COULDN'T EVEN REACH YOU. DO YOU KNOW HOW WORRIED I WAS?
SORRY, SORRY. I WAS PICKING OUT A PRESENT FOR YOU.
A PRESENT?
IS IT A CANDLE?
WELL, NOT JUST A REGULAR CANDLE. IT'S SCENTED. THOUGHT IT MIGHT HELP YOU RELAX AND CALM DOWN.
WHAT YOU WERE PLAYING JUST NOW... IT WAS CHOPIN'S BALLADE NO.1, RIGHT?
YEAH.
COULD YOU PLAY IT AGAIN FOR ME?

IT'S A PUNISHMENT FOR MAKING ME WORRY SO MUCH

TO PREPARE FOR THE SUMMER CONCOURS YOU'LL GET TWO SESSIONS A WEEK WITH YOUR ADVISOR FROM NOW ON

REALLY...?!

YEP, IT'S A PRETTY IMPORTANT EVENT SO I THINK THE SCHOOL IS PUTTING MORE EFFORT INTO IT AS WELL

YEONJIN FOR YOU THAT'LL BE...THE TIME YOU WERE ASSIGNED WHEN YOU HAD TO SWITCH ADVISORS PLUS ONE DAY SO IT'S THE LAST PERIOD ON TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

DOES IT APPLY TO ALL STUDENTS?

MM-HMM

SO HEE-EUN UNNIE AS WELL...

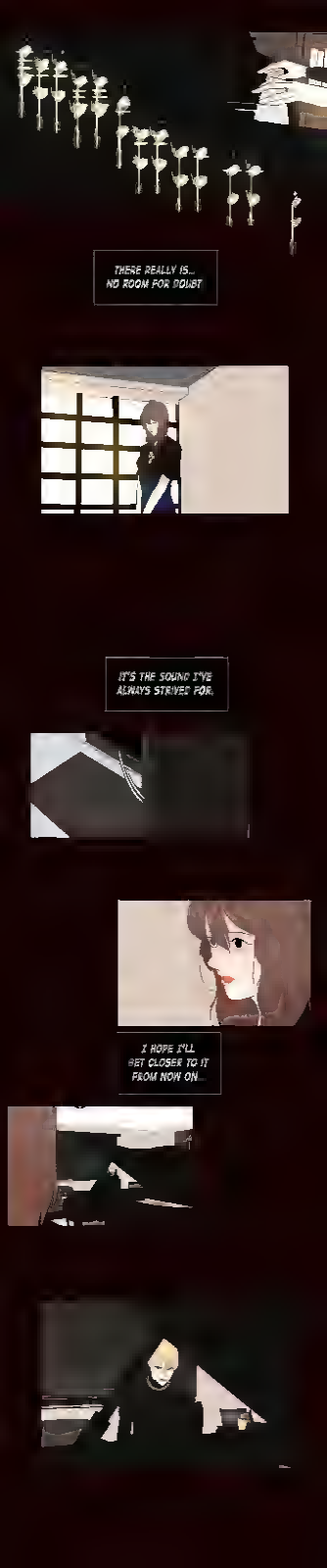
AH...RIGHT IT'S MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS FOR HER... BUT SHE USUALLY IGNORES THE SCHEDULE AND GOES THERE OFTEN ANYWAYS

I SEE~

WORK HARD AND I'LL BE PRAYING THAT YOU GET GOOD RESULTS THIS TIME YEONJU!

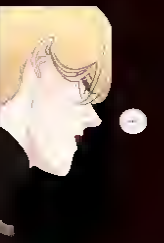
HEY, YEON...!

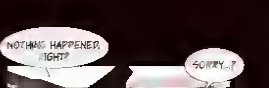
CHOPIN BALLADE...
NO!..
SOMEHOW... I DID MAKE IT THIS FAR, HUH...
THE SOUND FROM THE CASSETTE...THAT VERY PERSON...
...IS JUST BEHIND THIS DOOR.


THERE REALLY IS...
NO ROOM FOR DOUBT.
IT'S THE SOUND I'VE ALWAYS STRIVED FOR.
I HOPE I'LL GET CLOSER TO IT FROM NOW ON...

Serenade

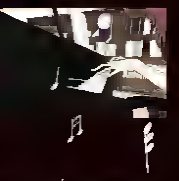
BY KEUM KYESOO

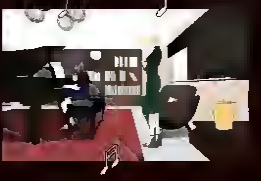




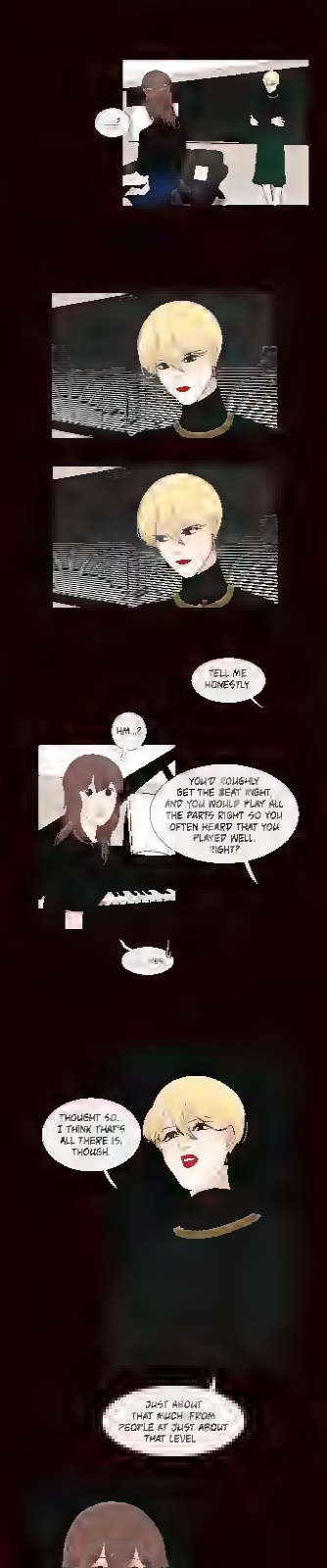
BACK THEN... AFTER WHAT HEE-EUN SAID TO YOU...
AH...
DID I MAKE YOU WORRIED BY ANY CHANCE...?
OF COURSE
IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD FOR ME IF YOU WERE TO CAUSE SOME SORT OF TROUBLE BECAUSE OF IT
...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, STANDING THERE?
AH, RIGHT!

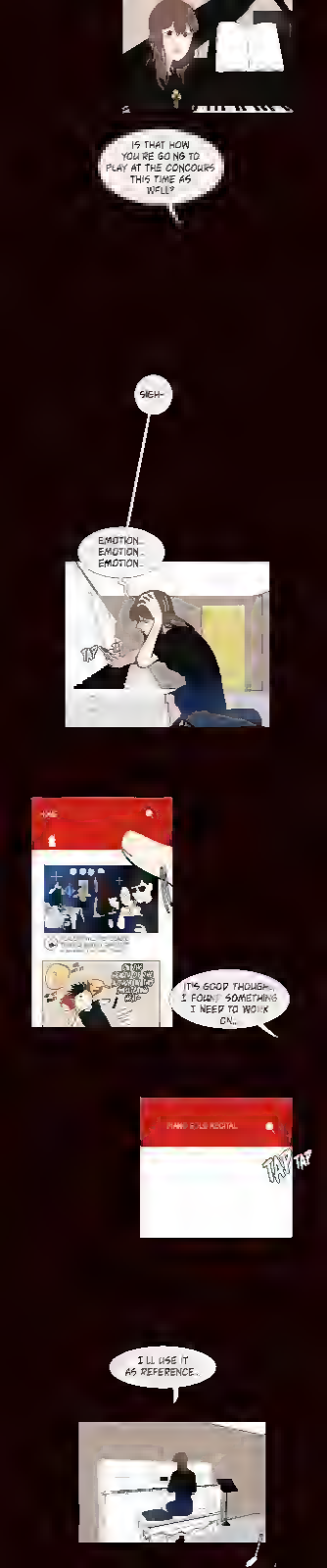




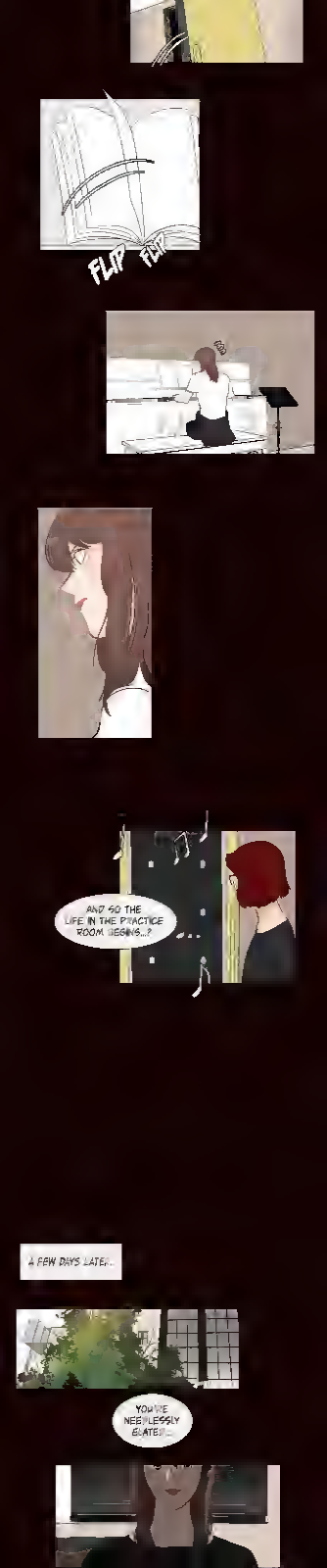
I DIDN'T MESS UP...!

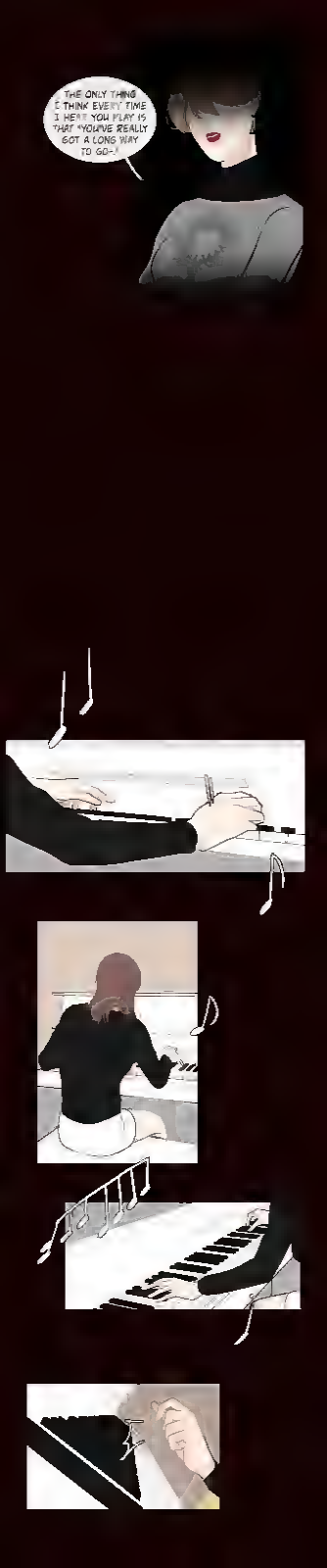

...?
TELL ME HONESTLY
HM...?
YOU'D ROUGHLY BET THE BEAT RIGHT, AND YOU WOULD PLAY ALL THE PARTS RIGHT SO YOU OFTEN HEARD THAT YOU PLAYED WELL. RIGHT?
YES.
THOUGHT SO... I THINK THAT'S ALL THERE IS, THOUGH.
JUST ABOUT THAT MUCH. FROM PEOPLE AT JUST ABOUT THAT LEVEL.

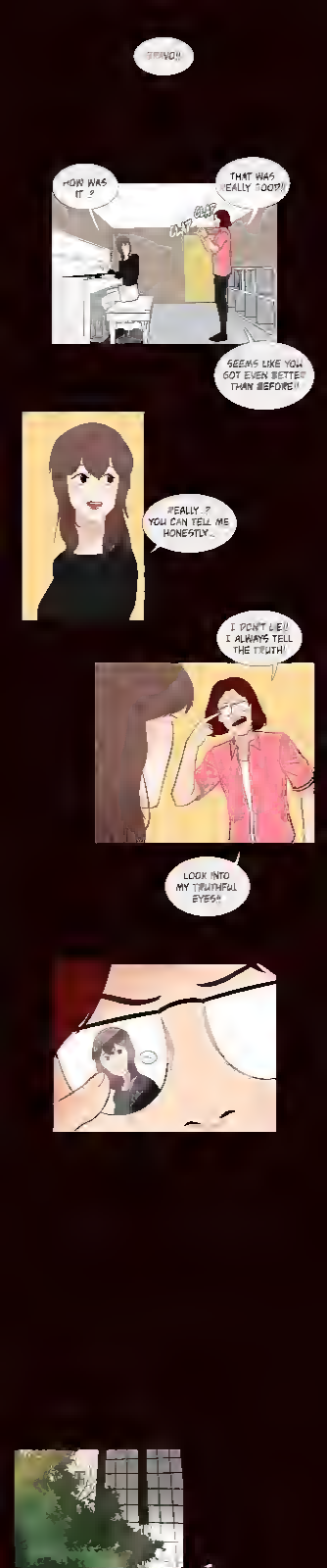
YOU ALWAYS PLAY LIKE THAT
DO YOU REALIZE HOW MECHANICAL IT SOUNDS?
LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY WAY YOU'RE CAPABLE OF EXPRESSING YOUR EMOTION THROUGH THE SCORE.
...IS THE TEMPO MARKING
AND THE STACCATO
OTHER THAN MESSING UP WHEN YOU GET NERVOUS
THERE'S NOTHING MUCH BEYOND THAT

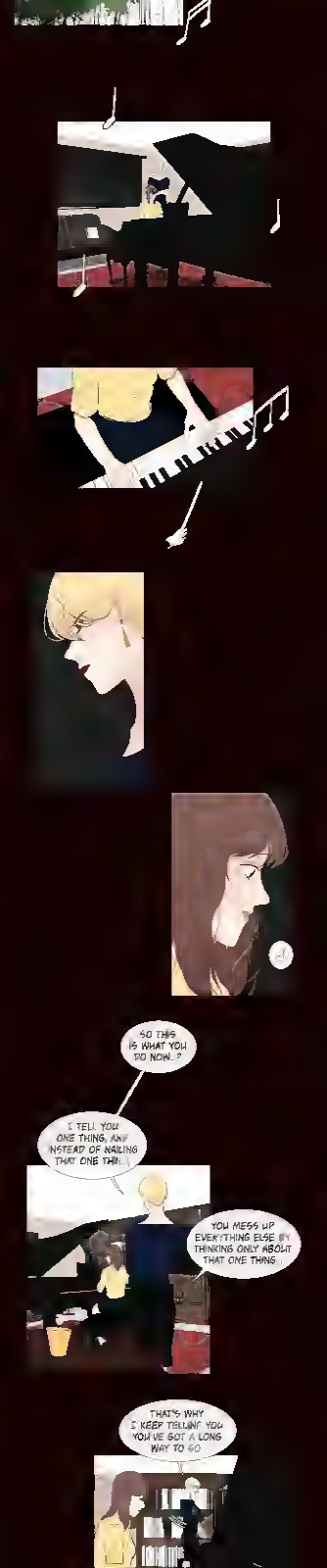

IS THAT HOW YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY AT THE CONCOURS THIS TIME AS WELL?
SIGH-
EMOTION... EMOTION... EMOTION...
TAP
HOME
IT'S GOOD THOUGH... I FOUND SOMETHING I NEED TO WORK ON...
PIANO SOLO RECITAL
TAP TAP
I'LL USE IT AS REFERENCE...

THE NEXT DAY
STOP!
ARE YOU MUMBLING SOMEONE ELSE OR SOMETHING?
???
IT'S NOT HITTING HOME NOT AT ALL.
IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE TO LISTEN TO
HI...!
YEON-
HEY YEONJU!

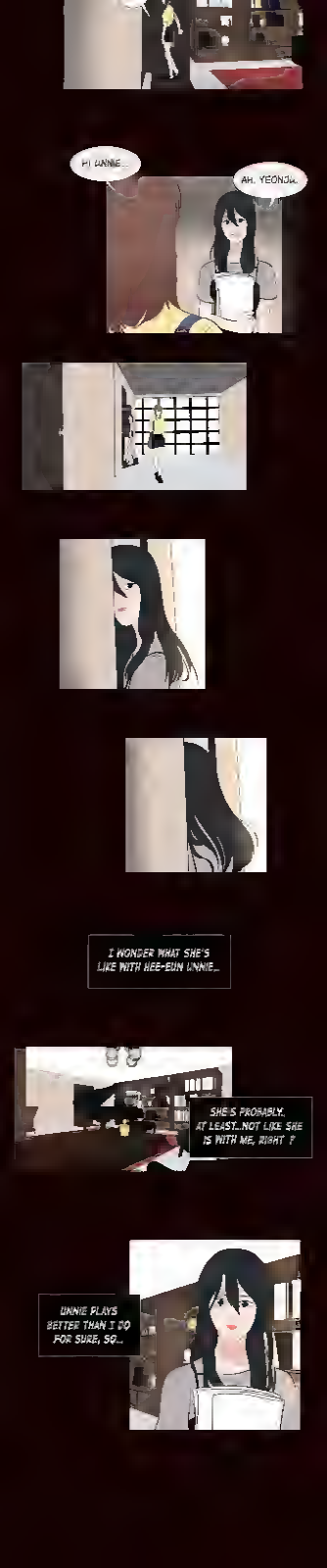

FLIP
FLIP
AND SO THE LIFE IN THE PRACTICE ROOM BEGINS...?
A FEW DAYS LATER...
YOU'RE NEEDLESSLY ELATED!...


THE ONLY THING I THINK EVERY TIME I HEAR YOU PLAY IS THAT "YOU'VE REALLY GOT A LONG WAY TO GO-!


HOW WAS IT ?
THAT WAS REALLY GOOD!!
SEEMS LIKE YOU GOT EVEN BETTER THAN BEFORE!!
REALLY..? YOU CAN TELL ME HONESTLY..
I DON'T LIE!! I ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH!
LOOK INTO MY TRUTHFUL EYES!!


SO THIS IS WHAT YOU DO NOW...?
I TELL YOU ONE THING, AND INSTEAD OF NAILING THAT ONE THIN
YOU MESS UP EVERYTHING ELSE BY THINKING ONLY ABOUT THAT ONE THING
THAT'S WHY I KEEP TELLING YOU YOU'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO

LET'S WRAP IT UP HERE FOR TODAY.
CRCRK...
HAAAAA...
I KNEW IT'D BE DIFFICULT TO MEET HER EXPECTATIONS...
SIGH...
...BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE THIS BAD...
UH...


HI UNNIE...
AH. YEONJU...
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S LIKE WITH HEE-EUN UNNIE...
SHE'S PROBABLY. AT LEAST...NOT LIKE SHE IS WITH ME, RIGHT ?
UNNIE PLAYS BETTER THAN I DO FOR SURE, SO...

I REALIZE THAT I HAVE A PROBLEM SO SHE'S NOT SATISFIED...

...BUT SOMEHOW, IT FEELS LIKE SHE JUST WANTS TO PUSH ME AWAY...

OR IS IT STILL MY PRIDE...?

I WISH I COULD SEE INSIDE HER HEAD, EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONCE..

SORRY, BUT...COULD WE TALK SOME OTHER TIME?
I'M REALLY NOT IN THE MOOD RIGHT NOW...
?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO BE LIKE THIS?
JUST TALK TO ME AND MAKE THINGS CLEAR.
STOP MAKING THINGS UNCOMFORTABLE

PUFF-

to be continued.